

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 SSO-00 SP-02 PM-04 L-03 INRE-00

INR-07 PRS-01 /040 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8411

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 11565

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, OVIP, RP (ROBINSON, CHARLES W.)

SUBJ: DEPSEC'S VISIT TO MANILA: PRESS GUIDANCE - U.S. OBLIGATIONS  
UNDER US-RP MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY

REF: MANILA 11494

1. THERE FOLLOWS PROPOSED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON  
U.S. OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE MDT.

2. BEGIN TEXT.

A) Q. HIGH LEVEL PHILIPPINE OFFICIALS, INCLUDING FOREIGN SECRETARY ROMULO, HAVE MADE PUBLIC STATEMENTS RECENTLY THAT IN CASE OF A CONFLICT INVOLVING THE PHILIPPINES THE U.S. WILL NOT COME TO THE DEFENSE OF THE PHILIPPINES UNLESS U. S. U.S. MILITARY BASES IN THAT COUNTRY ARE ATTACKED. CAN YOU CONFIRM THAT THIS IS THE U.S. POSTURE UNDER THE EXISTING US-RP MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY?

A. THE REVISED BASE AGREEMENT HAS NOT YET BEEN CONCLUDED. NEGOTIATIONS ARE CONTINUING IN MANILA BETWEEN THE PHILIPINE

AND AMERICAN PANELS.

B) Q. COULD YOU GIVE US A MORE PRECISE STATUS REPORT ON THE NEGOTIATIONS?

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A. WHILE I CANNOT GO INTO DETAILS, IN GENERAL I BELIEVE THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS IN THESE VERY COMPLEX DISCUSSIONS OVER THE PAST TWO MONTHS. AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED ON A NUMBER OF POINTS. AT THE SAME TIME THERE REMAIN SOME SUB-STATIAL DIFFERENCES TO BE RESOLVED.

C) Q. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE GAME PLAN WAS TO CONCLUDE THE REVISED AGREEMENT IN TIME FOR SUBMISSION TO THE CURRENT CONGRESS. WILL YOU MEET THIS TIME-TABLE?

A. AT THIS POINT I AM NOT ABLE TO PREDICT WITH CERTAINTY WHEN A REVISED AGREEMENT WILL BE CONCLUDED. WE REMAIN INTERESTED IN AN EARLY AND SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE TALKS. MOST IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, IS REACHING AN AGREEMENT WHICH WILL MEET THE NEEDS OF BOTH PARTIES.

D) Q. DO YOU THINK THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT THE TWO SIDES WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ARRIVE AT A SATISFACTORY REVISED AGREEMENT?

A. BOTH SIDES ARE TAKING THESE NEGOTIATIONS SERIOUSLY. PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE. WE EXPECT THAT A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION CAN BE REACHED. END TEXT.  
SULLIVAN

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## Message Attributes

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